

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-8. (canceled)

9. (new) An injection device comprising:

a housing having a forward end and a rearward end;

a syringe having a needle and containing a dose for being ejected through said needle by means of a piston slideable within the syringe, said syringe being moveable within the housing to a forward position to project its needle from the forward end of the housing;

a spring drive operable firstly to urge the syringe to its forward position and then to press said piston to eject said dose, said drive including:

a first spring acting between the housing and a plunger aligned to cooperate with the piston to urge the piston forwardly, and

a second spring acting in compression between said plunger and the syringe and in opposition to said first spring when the plunger presses said piston forwards to eject the dose,

the second spring being weaker than the first spring but being sufficiently stiff to be in an expanded state when the

syringe reaches its forward position with its needle penetrating the flesh of a patient, whereupon the first spring, as it fully expands, will then compress the second spring to urge the plunger forward and thereby move the piston and expel a dose from the syringe, the second spring meanwhile serving to retain the syringe seated at its forward position, whereby said piston is not acted upon until the needle has penetrated.

10. (new) The injection device of claim 9, further comprising a third, light spring urging the syringe rearwardly so that its needle is retracted within the housing prior to use.

11. (new) The injection device of claim 9, wherein the ejection of said dose is caused by further expansion of said first spring and is accompanied by compression of said second spring throughout the stroke of movement of said piston.

12. (new) The injection device of claim 9, wherein during initial expansion movement of said first spring, said piston is isolated from the thrust of said first spring solely by the opposing force of the second spring.

13. (new) The injection device of claim 9, wherein the first spring contacts the plunger and the housing, and the second spring contacts the plunger and the syringe.